

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

Budget Communications Memo



Improving Student Achievement / Closing the Achievement Gap

Background

State Superintendent Burmaster has made raising the level of achievement for all students and closing the achievement gap her highest priorities. That is why her budget proposal supports and expands throughout our state what we know works. Specifically, her budget calls for:

- increased funding for the SAGE Program at \$2,250 per pupil, and addition of new schools,
- a \$75 million dollar increase in special education funding over the next two years,
- increased and expanded Bilingual-Bicultural Aid,
- increased school nutrition programs including school breakfast,
- increased support for public libraries,
- and continued funding for 4-year-old kindergarten.

The budget also contains provisions for American Indian education, supporting gifted and talented pupils, expanding access to health services, before- and after-school programs, enhancing PK-16 councils, and online learning. To support lifelong learning and economic development, her library proposals address funding for BadgerLink, the state's on-line library, Public Library System aid, library delivery services, library service contracts, and school library aids.

Budget Request

	FY 08	FY 09
Bilingual-Bicultural Education Aid Increase	\$1,055,800	\$2,040,900
Provide funding to maintain the state's reimbursement of approximately 12 percent of approved prior year costs for school districts required to offer bilingual-bicultural education programs.		
Expanded Bilingual-Bicultural Education Aid	\$0	\$6,195,000
Create a new bilingual-bicultural categorical aid program to award \$350 per limited-English proficient (LEP) pupil to districts that have LEP populations below the statutory threshold and thus do not qualify for categorical aid under state law, but are still educating LEP students.		
SAGE Program – Fully Fund at \$2,250/pupil	\$10,366,900	\$10,366,900
Provide increases to fund the statutory increase in the state Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) aid from \$2,000 per low-income student to \$2,250 per low-income student.		
SAGE Program – Add New Schools	\$0	\$540,000
The department proposes to allow a "fourth wave" of roughly five schools to join the SAGE program beginning in the		

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2008-09 school year. Some schools may have missed the opportunity to apply for SAGE during initial enrollment windows and the department does not currently have the authority to accept new SAGE contracts.

Precollege Scholarship Program	\$108,900	\$108,900
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Provide a five percent increase for the Precollege Scholarship Program. This increase is necessary so the program can continue its work preparing students for college who otherwise may not pursue a postsecondary education.

Assuring Early Learning Opportunities	\$342,700	\$287,000
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Provide funding to support a coordinated program of quality early learning opportunities and to strengthen the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. Also permit each school district that adopts a "community approach" to early care and education to count an additional 0.1 FTE toward state aid and revenue limits for each 4K pupil enrolled in the district. Request 1.0 FTE responsible for overseeing the review and approval of all higher education early childhood level education programs and licensing of early childhood education professionals.

School Breakfast Reimbursement Rate	\$1,229,700	\$1,458,200
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Increase the per meal reimbursement rate from 10 cents to 15 cents per breakfast served by public and private schools under the state's School Breakfast Program.

Eliminate Reduced-Price School Breakfast Fee	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
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Provide that the state pay the 30 cents charged to each public and private school student for his or her reduced-price breakfast, thus allowing the student to eat a free breakfast.

Fully-fund School Milk Program	\$326,300	\$409,300
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Provide full funding to eligible pupils in the Wisconsin school day milk program in both public and private schools. The department prorated claims by paying at 80 percent in FY06. The appropriation has not been increased since FY01.

American Indian Education	\$60,000	\$40,000
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Provide funding to support a systematic study of the needs of American Indian students to identify critical concerns and possible interventions.

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Supporting Gifted and Talented Pupils

\$182,000

\$182,000

Provide funding to double the current gifted and talented grant program to benefit more schools and pupils in grades 5 to 8. Although the program served more than 300 Wisconsin pupils in 80 school districts in 2005-06 by providing advanced coursework and other opportunities, there are large numbers of pupils who still require academic challenge.

Expanded Access to School Health Services

\$1,000,000

\$1,000,000

Create a new grant to public school districts to improve student access to school nurses. The grants will provide approximately 15 FTE school nurse positions at \$60,000 or may be used to provide additional nursing services to schools statewide. In addition, the department requests \$75,000 GPR annually to administer and evaluate the grant program and to provide professional development activities to new and currently practicing school nurses in school districts.

Before- and After-School Programs

\$0

\$5,000,000

Create a new \$4,750,000 grant to public schools, community organizations, and local units of government to support and expand extended learning opportunities (before- and after-school programs). In addition, the department requests \$250,000 GPR and 1.0 FTE in FY09 to administer the grant, provide technical assistance and provide training to ensure student outcomes and parent satisfaction.

Enhancing PK-16 Councils

\$385,000

\$385,000

Provide funding to strengthen the existing UW System regional PK-16 efforts started in 2001. Funding would be split as follows:

- \$325,000 each year for grants to regional PK-16 councils, with specific membership and duties related to receipt of the grant.
- \$60,000 each year for four regional "Efficiency Through Collaboration" grants of up to \$15,000 each.
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Online Learning: Promoting Quality

\$49,000

\$44,500

Provide funding to enhance the quality of online learning in the state via professional development, student assessments and information for parents.

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